

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6210

Dear Representative Schrader:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern regarding the pending decision on Oregon's coastal nonpoint pollution control program. Preventing and reducing coastal nonpoint source pollution, as the coastal nonpoint program is designed to do, is very important to EPA and NOAA. The federal agencies received numerous public comments in late March on our proposed finding that Oregon has failed to submit an approvable program and are carefully considering all input received, including the state's March 20, 2014, submission, before making a final determination regarding whether Oregon has failed to submit an approvable program.

I appreciate your patience during this process. EPA and NOAA are committed to working with Oregon as it continues to improve its water quality programs across all categories of nonpoint source pollution. Addressing coastal nonpoint source pollution will require the involvement of many agencies in Oregon, including not only the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Land Conservation and Development, which serve as Oregon's co-leads for the coastal nonpoint program, but others as well, particularly the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture. EPA and NOAA will keep you informed when we make a final decision and are happy to arrange a briefing to further discuss the status of Oregon's coastal nonpoint program.

Sincerely,

Gina McCarthy
Administrator

Identical Letters to:

The Honorable Peter Defazio
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Defazio:

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Blumenauer:

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Walden:

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I appreciate your patience during this process. EPA and NOAA are committed to working with Oregon as it continues to improve its water quality programs: across all categories of nonpoint source pollution. Addressing coastal nonpoint source pollution will require the involvement of many agencies in Oregon, including not only the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Land Conservation and Development, which serve as Oregon's agency-co-leads for the coastal nonpoint program, but others as well, including particularly the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture. ~~Oregon is a leader in coastal management and we hope it can be a leader in protecting coastal water quality from nonpoint source pollution too.~~ EPA and NOAA will keep you informed when we make a final decision and are happy to arrange a briefing to further discuss the status of Oregon's coastal nonpoint program.

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